

HONORING MS. PRISSY GRACE ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Ms. Prissy Grace, who has represented members of the National Association of Letter Carriers, on announcing her retirement. Ms. Grace was born in Fort Worth, Texas, in 1943, and started with the Humble Post Office in 1973. The National Association of Letter Carriers has recognized her dedication by electing her as a union steward, the first woman Member of the Year, the first woman full-time officer, in 1983, and the first woman president of their union, in 1998, and again in 2002. She was truly a pioneer and blazed a trail that women will be following for generations to come.

Ms. Grace once forced a postmaster, who belonged to the Klu Klux Klan, to integrate his station. She defended workers who refused to work in unsafe and dangerous conditions. She worked to turn a credit union, in receivership, into one of the strongest financial institutions in the State. In many other ways, too numerous to list here, she has improved the life of all the postal workers and their families in the Houston area. Her decades of service have generated the respect and admiration of the union members and Post Office management.

Not only was she a tireless defender of postal workers, but as a single mother, she raised three children who each went on to graduate from college. If ever an individual embodied the ideals of family values, freedom and feminism, she is this individual. She is also a good friend of my family and of working people in our country.

And so it is with great pleasure that I recognize Ms. Prissy Grace, for her distinguished service to the National Association of Letter Carriers, and I congratulate her on announcing her retirement.

CONGRATULATING ROBERT UGUCCIONI UPON HIS RETIRE- MENT AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE POCONO MOUNTAIN VA- CATION BUREAU

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Robert Uguccioni, who is retiring after an illustrious career with the Pocono Mountain Vacation Bureau where he served for more than 40 years as its executive director.

Mr. Uguccioni spent several years early in his life in the Lake Wallenpaupack region. After graduating from Hawley High School, he entered the United States Air Force where he served 4 years supervising a material control department in Japan.

Upon returning to the Pocono Mountains, he was hired as public relations director for the Lake Wallenpaupack Association and then the Pike County Tourist Promotion Agency.

In 1967, he became executive director of the Pocono Mountain Vacation Bureau which spans four counties including Monroe, Pike, Wayne, and Carbon and is the largest tourist promotion agency of its kind in Pennsylvania.

Mr. Uguccioni represents nearly 800 members and associate members in promoting the Pocono region as a travel destination. He represents the area nationally and on the State level working toward favorable tourism legislation, government-sponsored advertising programs for tourism as well as in all facets of the tourism industry affecting the Poconos and the State.

Mr. Uguccioni serves or served on a host of boards of directors of tourism related organizations and is a past president of the Pennsylvania Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus.

On the national level, Mr. Uguccioni is involved with the American Bus Association, the American Culinary Association, the American Hotel and Motel Association, the American Society of Association Executives, the National Tour Association, the Travel Industry Association of America, National Travel Marketing Task Force, the Federal Administration Tourist Advisory Council and he is a national member of the White House Conference on Travel and Tourism.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Uguccioni for many years of service to the travel and tourism industry and in extending to him best wishes for a well-deserved retirement. Mr. Uguccioni's contributions to the travel and tourism industries have made a major impact on our regional, State, and national economies and have helped to create many job opportunities that have improved the quality of life in northeastern Pennsylvania as well as the entire Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SERGEANT KENNETH R. BOOKER

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, November 4, 2007, the town of Vevay, Indiana, tragically lost their first son in Iraq. SGT Kenneth R. Booker died from wounds sustained from an improvised explosive device attack while on patrol in his Stryker armored vehicle in Mukhisa, Iraq.

After graduating from Switzerland County High School in 2000, Kenneth enlisted in the Army. He had already served in Afghanistan and Iraq—celebrating his 21st and 22nd birthdays respectively while serving overseas—before being deployed to Mukhisa, Iraq.

At one point, Sergeant Booker was assigned to military intelligence, but did not like being stuck behind a desk. He requested a transfer back to infantry duty, joining a Stryker Brigade Combat Unit. Sergeant Booker was well aware that his new unit was destined for Iraq.

Described by loved ones as having a tremendous sense of humor, constantly had fun, was good natured, and kind; Sergeant Booker was, simply put, a "wonderful person."

The day after Sergeant Booker's death, his mother, Becky Graham, sent a Christmas care

package to her son, unknowing that he had been killed the previous day. In the care package she included a note to her son stating that if he could not be home for Christmas, Christmas would come to him.

Sergeant Booker's father always had faith that his son would be safe, but that even the best of soldiers are killed in the line of duty.

Sergeant Kenneth R. Booker was a true hero. I, with Sergeant Booker's family, the town of Vevay, and the State of Indiana mourn this brave Hoosier's premature death. His friends and loved ones are in my prayers.

CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY'S TARTAN RACING TEAM

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. DOYLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Carnegie Mellon University's Tartan Racing Team and its autonomous driving robot vehicle, "Boss," on placing first in the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency's Urban Challenge, held November 3, 2007 in Victorville, California.

This contest pitted 11 autonomous vehicles against each other on a course of suburban and urban roadways. Its goal was to help develop robotics technology that can keep military personnel out of harm's way and prevent civilian automotive accidents.

Boss was the fastest of the competitors by a large margin, averaging 14 miles per hour over the approximately 55 mile course and finishing 20 minutes ahead of the second-place finisher.

Carnegie Mellon University's Tartan Racing Team has been working hard to produce revolutionary new robots that can dramatically improve driver safety. To accomplish these goals, Team Leader Dr. William "Red" Whitaker has put together a team of researchers, faculty and staff that is unparalleled in the robotics world.

I want to recognize each of these outstanding individuals by name. They are Joshua Anhalt, Hong S. Bae, Drew Bagnell, Christopher Baker, Bob Bittner, Thomas Brown, George Clancy, M. N. Clark, Dominic Dagradi, Michael Darms, Daniel Demitris, John Dolan, Dave Duggins, Dave Ferguson, Tugrul Galatali, Michele Gittleman, Sam Harbaugh, Martial Hebert, Tom Howard, Alonzo Kelly, David Kohanbash, Maxim Likhachev, Bakhtiar Litkouhi, Nick Miller, Jim Nickolaou, Kevin Peterson, Brian Pilnick, Raj Rajkumar, Paul Rybski, Varsha Sadekar, Bryan Salesky, Sebastian Scherer, Ed Schlesinger, Young-Woo Seo, Bob Shafto, Todd Shupe, Reid Simmons, Sanjiv Singh, Jarrod Snider, Spencer Spiker, Anthony Stentz, Josh Struble, Evan Tahler, Chris Urmson, Ziv Wolkowicki, Vincent Zeng, Shuqing Zeng, Wende Zhang and Jason Ziglar.

The Tartan Racing Team's success must also be credited to its relationship with its sponsors. The longstanding Carnegie Mellon-GM Collaborative Research Lab brings hardware integration and system engineering skills to the team, for example. Tartan Racing's other partners include Caterpillar, Continental AG, Intel, Google, Applanix, TeleAtlas, Vector, Ibeo, Mobileye, CarSim, CleanPower Resources, MA/COM, NetApp, Vector CANTech

and Hewlett Packard. I think we can all agree it's hard to beat a team with a bench like that.

As the Congressman representing Carnegie Mellon, and as co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Robotics, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Tartan Racing Team and Carnegie Mellon University for their innovations in robotics and for their DARPA Grand Challenge Victory.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. SACVAN
BERCOVITCH

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. McNULTY. Madam Speaker, I am most pleased to recognize the outstanding contributions of Dr. Sacvan Bercovitch, the Powell M. Cabot Professor of American Literature Emeritus of Harvard University, who has been awarded the Bode-Pearson Prize for his outstanding contributions to American studies.

Professor Bercovitch is the brother of a beloved constituent, Ninel Segal. He has been called "one of the great literary historians of the 20th century" and "one of the first American scholars to analyze the ideological and rhetorical functions of literature and to link art to political and cultural themes." Many of his works have been translated in French, German, Chinese, Italian, and others. I am pleased to insert into the RECORD the citation presented to Professor Bercovitch by the American Studies Association:

"Rare, extravagant spirits," says Emerson in his essay on History, "come to us at intervals, who disclose to us new facts in nature." Tonight it gives me great pleasure, on behalf of my fellow committee members, Elaine May and James Miller, to award the Bode-Pearson prize to one such spirit, indeed, the presiding spirit of American Studies, Sacvan Bercovitch. Through his writings, intellectual projects, and service to the Association, Professor Bercovitch has made an unparalleled set of distinguished contributions over the last 30 years. Perhaps no single literary historian has exerted the profound influence over his field that Bercovitch has, for he has been the key figure in the ideological turn of American literary study and the galvanizing source of its interdisciplinary practice. If the American Studies community is infinitely more robust than it was the last time the Association met in Philadelphia in 1983 when tonight's honoree was its president, it may well be the fruit of Sacvan Bercovitch's labors. If this sounds extravagant, know that it merely does justice to the extravagant bounty of his learning, the extravagant scope of his inquiry, the extravagantly searching range of his intellect, the extravagant intensity of his example for three generations of students, and the extravagant vitality of his commitment.

Bercovitch began his career as an Americanist with his publication, in 1966, of an essay on Cotton Mather, but he had begun his informal study of America some years before. As a Canadian from Montreal's rough-and-tumble Yiddish-speaking quarter, his fascination with U.S. culture preceded his engagement with its literary traditions. While Bercovitch never lost that connection to his past, and indeed, translated several of the great Yiddish writers of the 20th century, his own American studies took him to the New

School of Social Research, Reed College, Hightstown, New Jersey, where he trained to join a kibbutz in Israel, then on to Claremont college, where he took his graduate degrees, then to Brandeis, and UC-San Diego until he arrived at Columbia, where he was to stay for 13 years before taking his last academic post, at Harvard. Like Hawthorne's Holgrave, he worked at various trades, scholarly and otherwise, all of which contributed to the swell of consciousness that resulted in two paradigm-changing scholarly works of his early career: *The Puritan Origins of the American Self* (1975) and *The American Jeremiad* (1979).

In the early 1980s, Bercovitch developed the intellectual underpinnings of the next great phase of his career, when he edited and co-edited two seminal books of the era, *Reconstructing American Literary History and Ideology* and *Classic American Literature*. Let me remind you how influential those collections were when they appeared two decades ago. For the first, Bercovitch assembled an impressive line-up of scholars and literary historians whose work would resonate for years to come—like Sandra Gilbert, Walter Michaels, Werner Sollors, Wendy Steiner, Robert Stepto, and Eric Sundquist, scholars who made the case for profession only slowly—all too slowly—awakening to the realization that the literary history of the U.S. needed to be reconstructed; with Myra Jehlen, he showed that the urgency of that reconstruction was ideological and that classic American literature, the redoubt of liberal humanism, was nothing if not political, in a series of essays by Jonathan Arac, Houston Baker, Gerald Graff, Don Pease, Carolyn Porter, Jane Tompkins, and Alan Trachtenberg, among other distinguished contributors. These collections, in no small part, helped to reinvent the study of American literature and, in so doing, changed the future of this Association.

Some of you will remember vividly what the Association's meetings were like as a direct consequence of Bercovitch's term, in San Diego, New York, and Miami, and can assure people who have only recently found a home here that the intellectual ferment of these years was dizzying, especially to the extent that it matched Sacvan Bercovitch's critical example: the cultural study of literature and literary study of culture broke wide open the intellectual boundaries of the Americanists' sense of the object of scholarly inquiry. That generation of scholars who changed the way we do business, if only because they followed the ways his work so vigorously aroused the possibilities of interdisciplinary study, through what Bercovitch called the "reciprocities between symbolic and social systems." Moreover his leadership also gave the Association a new critical urgency, by moving it away from the hidebound, dry academicism that had dominated it for the previous two decades and toward public engagement. At the time there were many who resisted and not a few who resented this new direction, yet the growth of the Association might suggest just how sorely needed and how keenly received was the charge that Sacvan Bercovitch had laid before us. The ASA's sense of itself has evolved in the last ten years, and perhaps the role of cultural study of literature and the literary study of culture is not as crucial as it once was, but these changes have only been possible because of the difference that Bercovitch—his colleagues, students, and followers—first wrought.

That charge was freshly shaped in his next great contribution to American literary studies, his supervision of the new Cambridge History of American Literature, brought to completion only in the year before last. This project made bold to rewrite, not as one book or two or even the four volumes that its predecessor had essayed 70 years prior, but as eight volumes written by some thirty scholars. The task proved arduous, and perhaps its completion depended as much upon the contributors' loyalty to Bercovitch as it did their commitment to their assignment. The lesson rehearsed in page after page of the History is "dissensus," the vision of literary history that rejects easy coherence and instead accommodates the evidence of vivifying resistance out of which a fuller, truer history may be understood—the turning of the inside of literary texts out and the turning of contexts in. Bercovitch's founding idea prompted a complex way of imagining literary historiography, one that especially enlivened the understanding of students and younger scholars, so much so that the "History" that they created was largely understood to be something of a generational enterprise. Indeed, the influence of the Cambridge History can be calculated in the way its separate parts have arrived with all the authority of established wisdom; its arguments crystallize the very terms of our practice over 20 years. In this sense, its eight volumes are but the shell of a project that will outlast us all.

Bercovitch's own reading and research led him to Hawthorne and inevitably *The Scarlet Letter*, but I will pass over the great achievements of his scholarship, just as I also pass over the dutiful recitations of his many, many honors and awards, the editorial and advisory boards and executive committees on which he has served, the consultancies, the positions of leadership he undertook in a surprising variety of places all too numerous to mention, in order to take a final few minutes to recall his presidency of this association. In so many ways, the current ASA is a wonderful prism of his multifaceted accomplishments. Members of longer standing than I will testify that Bercovitch "saved" the ASA, by which they mean that during his tenure he undertook a major effort to resuscitate and transform the organization. At the time, ASA was wholly dependent on the University of Pennsylvania and in debt a considerable amount of money to them. Penn even held the copyright to AQ. Bercovitch mobilized a number of influential ASA members, including past president Daniel Aaron and Leo Marx, to change the *modus operandi*. He also realized that, most of all, the culture of ASA had to change, and beginning with a panel of luminaries devoted to the organization's future at Philadelphia in 1983, he undertook to reshape it into the entity we know today. As part of a major re-evaluation, the association took ownership of its journal, established new publishing arrangements, raised new funds, relocated to Washington, DC, shifted to annual meetings (although the planning for this began with Bercovitch, Michael Cowan eventually pushed it through). Plus, the ASA under Bercovitch began to internationalize, reinvigorating ties with the Canadian and European associations, even as it moved forcefully to diversify, naming Martha Banta as program chair of the San Diego conference, which, in turn, featured the work of several future presidents—Mary Helen Washington, Stephen Sumida, Vicki Ruiz—all of whom became involved in the organization for the first time.

In short, we might dedicate ourselves tonight to making ASA worthy of this immeasurably rich legacy. So please join with me and applaud, extravagantly, the career of